The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918

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WHOLE NO. 1907 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 43

Convention Urged to Support Friends, Oppose Enemies Irrespective of Party

San Francisco.—Delegates to the AFL convention heard a strong plea for reaffirmation of the Gompers policy of supporting or opposing political candidates on the basis of their attitude toward labor irrespective of their party affiliation.

Harry Stevenson, president of the Molders and Foundry Workers' Union of North America, in an address to the convention, urged every AFL international officer "to go back to the local unions and see that they take part" in an active campaign to get out the vote and to pick candidates on the basis of their friendliness toward labor's cause. He related the experience of Local 146 of the Molders' Union in San Francisco.

"I find that our local union right here in San rFancisco, Local 146, some time ago appointed a special committee to interview all of the members to make sure that they were registered. They came across some who had not voted for eight or nine years, but I am happy to say that through the work of the local union here, every member of Local 146 is registered 100 percent."

Mr. Stevenson called upon the delegates to forget whether "we are Republicans or Democrats" and unite their efforts in the campaign to fight the Taft-Hartley law. He related an experience he had in connection with the political campaign in eastern Pennsylvania. He said:

"I was down in the eastern Pennsylvania district just two weeks before the election in the eighth district, where they reported so much about defeating the Democratic candidate in that district.

"While I was there, I found that a letter had been given out to the workers in different factories signed by the Bucks County Republican Committee of Doyleston, Pa.: Mr. Harry A. Clayton, chairman; Mrs. Clarence J. Buckman, vice-chairman; and they gave out this letter ,which states that 85 percent of labor does not know what is in the Taft-Hartley bill.

"Then they handed out this long letter that they gave to the workers. They sneaked into the shop at noon time, because I know in the particular foundry I got this in, the company had no knowledge it was given out. Some of the things that are said in this letter are as follows:

"'To the Workers: You can't be fired by your union under the Taft-Hartley Act so long as you pay your initiation fee, pay your dues.'

"Listen to this: 'The union can't have you laid off because they don't like your race or your religion.'

"That is put out by the Republican Party. Then they say again: 'When you join a movement to smash the Taft-Hartley Act before it has had a fair trial and to steer the government out of trying to enforce it, you are putting another man's handcuffs on your wrist.'

"That is the propaganda that is being put out by the Republican Party."

Joint Action By Labor and Business Held Necessary to Stabilize Prices

Washington, D. C.—The AFL declared that the problem of stabilizing prices of industrial products is one for joint action of management and labor; neither can do it alone.

This was the conclusion of an article appearing in "Labor's Monthly Survey," an AFL publication, calling for the exercise of good statesmanship on the part of labor and management in prompt and vigorous attempts "to stop the price spiral before it goes too far."

Substantial increases in workers' living costs, with no decline in sight, will force unions to seek additional wage increases, the article said. Whether an upward spiral of prices will be touched off by such action depends upon the attitude and statesmanship of both labor and management, the report declared.

Asserting that prices in most cases "have been raised more than enough to offset wage increases, as is shown by the high and rising level of profits," the article reiterated AFL policy calling for wage increases within existing price levels.

"The American Federation of Labor has repeatedly urged the policy of wage increases without raising prices as the only way any real progress can be made. That policy is more important than ever today as we face the dire consequences of a new inflationary spiral. Such a policy however can only succeed if management comes halfway, submitting facts and figures acceptable to both parties to show the wage increase possible without raising prices, and sitting down in good faith with labor to work out ways and means of raising wages within present prices.

"We have repeatedly pointed out that wage increases account for only a small part of the price rises of 1946 and 1947. Information to show what part of a price rise is due to wages is not generally available; therefore the public is often misled by statements attributing price rises entirely to wages. Interesting figures were recently published on the steel price increases, and since this has caused hundreds of other price increases in products made from steel it is worth noting.

"'In July, 1947, major steel companies raised their prices $5 per ton for finished steel. Wages of steel workers had risen in the spring, and prices of coal and scrap iron were higher. Figures for U. S. Steel show the following: The company's shipments rose from 15,182,000 tons in 1946 to (probable) 20,232,000 tons in 1947. Because of this increase the cost of wages and salaries per ton dropped substantially; in 1946 wage cost was $46.39 per ton, in the second half of 1947 (after the wage increase) only $43.20 per ton. So actually the wage cost per ton after the wage increase was $3.19 lower than it had been the year before (1946). Operating profit per ton was $19.00 after the wage and price increases, compared to $13.41 per ton in 1946.

"When federal taxes and the higher depreciation costs are accounted for, profit per ton is estimated to be $2.10 more in the second half of 1947 (after wage and price increase) than it was in 1946, and the company's net profit per share of common stock is estimated at an annual rate of $12.28 in the second half of 1947 compared to $7.29 in 1946. These figures show conclusively that a substantial part of the price increase served to raise profits, and also that part of it was necessary to cover higher depreciation charges. The higher cost of wages was offset by the higher rate of operations.

"In citing these figures the American Federation of Labor is in no sense attacking profits. We recognize that the business man's chance to make profits is a powerful incentive to industrial progress, and that such progress, when balanced by strong union organization and collective bargaining, is the basis for higher living standards. It should be clear to all however that the wage and profit increases which cause a steady rise in prices and living costs are self-defeating.

"The problem of stabilizing prices of industrial products is one for joint action of management and labor; neither can solve it alone. Nothing is gained by blaming labor for price increases while profits soar to new all-time peaks. Much can be lost by failure to face the problem squarely and stop the price spiral before it goes too far."

AUGUST WORK STOPPAGES AT LOWEST SINCE MARCH

Washington, D. C.—Strike idleness in August dropped to the lowest point since March, according to preliminary estimates released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

About 120,000 workers were involved in the stoppages which began in that month. Including the stoppages beginning before August, the number of workers involved reached the figure of 250,000.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service settled 199 strikes during the month and intervened successfully in 725 controversies and threatened strikes before work stoppages resulted.

J. J. O'Leary, UMW Official Succumbs To Heart Attack

San Francisco.—John J. O'Leary, vice-president of the United Mine Workers of America, died of a heart attack in St. Lukes Hospital here. He was 66 years old.

Mr. O'Leary attended the AFL convention here and was stricken with a heart attack two days after completion of the sessions. He was taken to the hospital, where he remained until his death, which resulted from a third attack.

Mr. O'Leary rose to prominence in organized labor after an humble start as a miner. In his youth he worked in the mines near Pittsburgh as his father, George O'Leary, had before him.

He carried a union card since 1898 and first became a union official in 1910, when he was elected to the board of District 5, UMW, which embraces most of the Pittsburgh soft coal area. In 1916 Mr. O'Leary succeeded Philip Murray, present CIO head, as a member of the UMW international executive board.

He held this post until 1942, when he was personally chosen by Mr. Lewis to serve the unexpired term of Mr. Murray as UMW vice-president.

Over Half Million Workers Earn Below 65 Cents Hourly

Washington, D. C.—Approximately 658,000 workers in the nation's manufacturing industries earned less than 65 cents an hour on a straight-time basis during July, 1947, according to estimates prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nearly double this total had earnings of less than 75 cents an hour, the bureau reported.

Thus, in the face of soaring prices and the consequent ever-increasing cost of living, almost 1,300,000 workers had to face the problem of buying the necessities of life with incomes of under $30 a week, computed on the basis of straight-time earnings for a 40-hour week.

The table below shows a breakdown of the number of workers employed in various manufacturing industries below the rates of 65 cents and 75 cents an hour. It is significant that in many industries employing relatively high proportions of workers below these rates of pay, prices have skyrocketed by leaps and bounds.

For example, BLS reports that the price of lumber has risen 195 percent over the level prevailing in August, 1939, and 51 percent over the June, 1946 price. The table shows, however, that the lumber industry leads the field of those employing large numbers of workers below 65 and 75 cents an hour. This is clear proof that those people who blame labor for rising prices will have to seek elsewhere for a more convincing argument.

Table 1.—Estimated Percent of Workers in Manufacturing Industries Earning Less Than Specified Hourly Earnings*, July, 1947

Industry group	Number of workers	Percent of workers earning less than 65 cents	75 cents
All manufacturing	12,276,000	5	10
Lumber and timber basic products	658,000	34	47
Tobacco manufactures	84,000	19	35
Leather and leather products	349,000	13	23
Apparel and other finished textile products	1,040,000	10	18
Furniture and finished lumber products	419,000	9	21
Food and kindred products	1,203,000	8	17
Printing, publishing and allied industries	422,000	5	12
Textile-mill products	1,158,000	5	10
Chemicals and allied products	547,000	3	7
Stone, clay and glass products	411,000	2	12
Paper and allied products	373,000	2	6
Nonferrous metals and their products	385,000	1	2
Machinery, except electrical	1,152,000	†	1
Petroleum and coal products	163,000	†	1
Rubber products	212,000	†	1
Transportation equipment, except automobiles	395,000	†	†
Iron and steel and their products	1,547,000	†	†
Electrical machinery	557,000	†	†
Automobiles	785,000	†	†

* Straight-time hourly earnings exclusive of premium pay for overtime and late-shift work.

† Less than one-half of 1 percent.

NLRB Begins First Hearing on Alleged Violation of Secondary Boycott Ban

Chattanooga, Tenn.—A trial examiner of the National Labor Relations Board began hearings on charges alleging violation by a union of the Taft-Hartley Law's provisions banning secondary boycotts.

The dispute involves the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local 74, AFL which is accused by the NLRB and Watsons Specialty Store with unfair labor practices in refusing to work on a building where nonunion employes of the specialty store were installing floor and wall coverings.

The complaint alleges that last February the local demanded a union contract with the specialty store, which contracts to perform interior decoration jobs and hires carpenters to do the work. The store refused.

Later the union carpenters went to work on a house owned by George D. Stanley, and when the specialty store's nonunion employes arrived to install the floor and wall coverings, the carpenters dropped their tools and demanded that the contractor in the case stop doing business with the store. The NLRB charges that this pressure constitutes a secondary boycott.

Attorneys for the union argued that the hearings should be postponed until the injunction suit was decided, because the facts at issue were identical; that the complaint be dismissed on the ground that the principal events took place before the Taft-Hartley Law became effective, and that the picketing allegations be stricken out on the ground that restriction of peaceful picketing at any time was a violation of the Constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech.

All three motions were denied.

Wages, Hours Chief Causes of Strikes

New York City—Demands for improved wages and hours were the most important cause of strikes conducted in New York State during the first nine months of 1947, according to information compiled by the State Board of Mediation.

In the 144 strikes handled by the board, higher wages, shorter work weeks, or both were an issue in eighty-three walkouts involving 14,440 workers. Higher wages were the only issue in twenty-five strikes of 7,499 wage-earners.

These findings correspond to the experience of 1946, when, of 237 strikes brought before the Board of Mediation during the full year, wages, hours, or both were the principal issue in 104 cases.

Union security was the only issue in four small strikes involving 256 workers among the stoppages disposed of by the Board of Mediation in the first three-quarters of this year. But union security was among the issues in twenty-four walkouts of 2,595 employes.

Discharge was an issue in twenty-four strikes of 1,021 workers, and a variety of demands for better working conditions figured in thirty-two strikes involving 3,982 persons. All other issues lumped together were causes in eighty-four strikes involving 6,765 men and women.

20,000 ILL VETERANS STUDYING BY MAIL

Washington, D. C.—The Veterans' Administration said that 20,000 of the 92,000 patients in war veterans' hospitals are studying correspondence courses ranging from college subjects to elementary reading, writing and arithmetic.

In some V. A. tuberculosis hospitals, up to 50 percent of the patients are taking advantage of a choice among 234 courses obtained from the United States Armed Forces Institute at Madison, Wis.

Union Operates Own Food Shop

Milwaukee, Wis.—Local 209 of the AFL's United Automobile Workers of America became the first union in this area to combat high food prices with the technique of operating its own food store for the benefit of union members.

On opening day an enthusiastic crowd of union members swept the shelves bare within a few hours and demanded an early re-opening of the facilities. The union's executive board, which volunteered to serve as storekeepers and stockmen, was kept busy attempting to handle the rush of business.

Purchase of food is limited to members of Local 209 and their families. As a result of the action of the union, it is estimated that members are able to save at least 12 percent on purchases made in the store.

Len Hackert, president of Local 209, announced it was the intention to open the store at least once a week for an indefinite period. Plans are under consideration for more frequent openings in the future, he declared.

LAUNDRY WORKERS HIRE INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

Seattle, Wash.—Sam J. Byers, president of the Laundry Workers International Union, announced the establishment of a new department within the union's organizational structure.

The union's general executive board, meeting in Seattle, created the department which will be under the direction of an industrial engineer. His function will be to render engineering service to union locals and employers in efforts to increase management's efficiency thereby making possible better wages and working conditions in the laundry industry.

Mr. Byers said that engineers have been employed with success by locals of the union located in Los Angeles and Jersey City.

NLRB Forms Policy On Cases Filed Before New Labor Law

Board Rules Union's Eligibility Status Governs Cases

Washington, D. C. — In a precedent-setting decision the National Labor Relations Board refused to order an employer to bargain with a union in a case arising before the Taft-Hartley law went into effect unless the union is eligible to use the board's machinery under the new law.

The board's order was the first issued on a backlog of unfair labor practice cases which were started prior to August 22, when the new act became fully operative.

Pending are 225 unfair labor practice cases which were heard before August 22 and are awaiting decision. The ruling, therefore, has widespread significance.

In order to become eligible, union leaders must swear they are not Communists and must submit financial and organizational data to the Labor Department as required by the Taft-Hartley Act.

The Marshall & Bruce Co., Nashville, Tenn., was ordered to bargain with the AFL Bookbinders Union, if officers of the latter sign the non-Communist affidavits and otherwise comply with the act in 30 days .

Chairman Paul M. Herzog, members James J. Reynolds, Jr., and J. Copeland Gray issued the 3-to-2 majority decision on the Tennessee case. All five members agreed that the board has the power to dispose of the cases pending before the new law became operative and to remedy any unfair labor practices which existed before that time.

Members John M. Houston and Abe Murdock contended that the bargaining order in the Marshall & Bruce case should not be conditioned on union compliance or noncompliance with the Taft-Hartley Act.

The majority said it believes "that to direct the respondent to bargain with the union and thus, in effect, to place the union in the position of a newly certified bargaining representative, would not effectuate the policies of the act, unless and until it qualifies for certification under section 9 (F), (G) and (H) within a reasonable time.

"Although the present proceeding does not involve the actual certification of a bargaining representative," the majority continued, "an order requiring an employer to bargain collectively with a labor organization is often tantamount in practice to a certification of the latter as bargaining representative. It looks toward a future relationship."

Truman Urges Prompt Legislation To Stem Inflation, Assist Europe

Washington, D. C.—President Truman declared he will ask Congress to take "timely and forthright action" to alleviate the double-barreled problems of high prices at home and hunger and cold abroad.

In a radio address to the American people explaining his decision to call a special session of Congress for November 17, Mr. Truman said the other alternative would be to wait "until depression caught up with us" at which time "other democratic nations would lose hope and become easy victims of totalitarian aggression."

"Our domestic prosperity is endangered by the threat of inflation," the President declared. "The peace of the world is endangered by hunger and cold in other lands."

Calling for prompt congressional legislation, Mr. Truman said "the need is too pressing, the results of delay too grave, for congressional action to wait until the next regular session in January."

The President did not disclose the measures he intends to ask of Congress, but indicated that when the special session convenes he will propose a definite program to combat inflation. He emphasized the seriousness of the situation and traced the plight of many of the nation's citizens who are caught in the squeeze between high prices and insufficient income. He said:

"We now have, and will continue to have, enough food and clothing and other goods in the United States to meet our needs. But excessively high prices mean that these goods are not being distributed wisely and fairly. High prices ration the essentials of life by squeezing out the less fortunate of our citizens. We can meet this problem only by bringing prices into line with the incomes of our people.

"The American people now have a compelling need for protection from the dangers of price inflation and the rising cost of living. They recognize this need and are asking for the protection to which they are entitled. The government must assume a larger share of responsibility for putting an end to excessive prices and the dangers and hardships which accompany them. For this purpose, prompt enactment by the Congress of comprehensive legislation is necessary."

Turning to a discussion of the foreign aid requested of Congress, the President reiterated this nation's policy of assisting free men and free nations to recover from the ravages of war. He said:

"We follow that policy for the purpose of securing the peace and well-being of the world. It is nonsense to say that we seek dominance over any other nation. We believe in freedom, and we are doing all we can to support free men and free governments throughout the world."

Mr. Truman praised the Marshall Plan as one which "presents great hope for economic security and peace" in western Europe. He indicated, however, that it cannot be implemented for several months and that there is vital need for immediate aid.

"A period of crisis is now at hand. The perils of hunger and cold in Europe make this winter a decisive time in history. All the progress of reconstruction and all the promise of future plans are endangered. If European nations are to continue their recovery, they must get through this winter without being crippled by economic paralysis and resulting chaos.

"The most imminent danger exists in France and Italy. If the economies of these countries collapse and the people succumb to totalitarian pressures, there will be no opportunity for them or for us to look forward to their recovery so essential to world peace.

"Even with the proposed aid from this country, the peoples of Europe this winter will be on short rations. They will be cold and they will be without many necessities. But our emergency aid will be definite assurance of the continuing support of this nation for the free peoples of Europe."

Declaring that these domestic and foreign problems present a challenge to the American people, the President declared "it is within our power to lead the world to peace and plenty."

"With resolution and united effort, we shall achieve our goal."

Truman's Food Unit Reports Progress; Hopes to Finish Program by Christmas

Washington, D. C.—The Citizens Food Committee, appointed by President Truman to direct the voluntary conservation plan, set Christmas as the time limit for their efforts to save 100,000,000 bushels of grain for export to Europe.

Charles Luckman, chairman of the committee, dubbed the "kitchen cabinet," and his associates estimated that about 25,000,000 bushels of grain already have been pledged toward the over-all food-saving objective and said:

"As soon as we reach 100,000,000 bushels, we will close the kitchen. Our goal is to finish up by Christmas."

The necessity that the food drive succeed not later than Christmas or the new year was stressed by Mr. Luckman's associates. They pointed out that the critical time in Europe could be the next three months.

To tide needy western European countries over the winter, committee members estimated that the bulk of food saving would have to be "over the hump" here by late fall and early winter.

"If the job is done at all," a committee member said, "it has to be done quickly. If it drags on much beyond Christmas, it means we are not getting our work done."

The tentative estimate that about one-fourth of the needed grain already has been pledged was based largely on promises of distillers, brewers, bakers, poultrymen and restaurant operators.

The biggest grain saving was estimated to be coming from the distilling industry. The committee said it had pledges that up to 20,000,000 bushels of grain would be saved during the 60-day distillers' holiday.

It was estimated that food-saving promises of bakers were good for about 3,000,000 bushels of grain and those of brewers for 2,000,000 bushels over a three-month period.

In addition, the committee said "indeterminate amounts" were pledged by poultrymen and restaurant operators. Added together, the combined pledges will bring the grain saved on paper well over the 25,000,000-bushel figure, it was stated.

Labor Department Sets Public Hearing On New Hazardous Occupations Order

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwellenbach scheduled a public hearing for Dec. 3 in Washington to consider extending coverage of Hazardous Occupations Order No. 4 to include most occupations in the logging of pulpwood, chemical wood, cordwood, fence posts, and similar woods not now subject to the 18-year age minimum under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Interested parties may appear in person, or may file briefs or statements which will be made a part of the record of the hearing.

Issued by the Secretary under the child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the effect of a hazardous occupations order is to raise the minimum age for employment from 16 to 18 years in occupations found upon investigation to be particularly hazardous for minors. Hazardous Occupations Order No. 4, which became effective in 1941, established a minimum age of 18 years in saw-timber logging and sawmilling occupations, but did not apply to occupations in the logging of pulpwood, etc.

Six other Hazardous Occupations Orders have been issued since the basic minimum wage, overtime and child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act went into effect in 1938. Issued after investigation and study of the industries concerned, these orders establishing 18 years as the minimum age for employment deal with occupations in plants manufacturing explosives; occupations of motor vehicle driver and helper; coal-mining; operation of power-driven woodworking machines; occupations involving exposure to radio-active substances; operation of power-driven hoisting apparatus.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT UP

Washington, D. C.—Industrial production in September climbed for the second straight month, according to the Federal Reserve Board's index of production.

The level of production stood at 185 percent above prewar output, the board said, but was still 5 points below the postwar record set during last March.

Board Decides On Bargaining Unit

Washington, D. C.—The first decision under the Taft-Hartley law on the question of what constitutes a proper bargaining unit was rendered by the National Labor Relations Board.

The board followed policy established under the old Wagner act and carried forward in the new law. It dismissed the petition of the AFL's Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for an election among twenty employes of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation at Marshall, N. C.

Board members held that the unit was too small because it failed to include the company's twenty-one other employes at Burnsville and Bakersville, N. C.

The N. L. R. B. assumed jurisdiction of the case on the ground that the cooperative utility, owned wholly by its customers, sold $2,980 worth of power across the state line in Tennessee and brought 40 per cent of $131,000 in supplies from sources outside North Carolina.

FLEMING URGES 75-CENT HOURLY MINIMUM WAGE

Washington, D. C.—Maj. Gen. Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Administrator, urged a House labor subcommittee to recommend that the present 40-cent-an-hour national minimum wage be raised to 75 cents.

The committee is studying the Wage and Hour Law preliminary to recommending amendments to Congress. General Fleming was in charge of administering the statute from 1939 to 1941. Describing the present minimum as "grotesque, obsolete and ridiculously low," he said the large number of violations pointed up "the need for an increase and a strengthened enforcement program."

General Fleming proposed that wage protection be extended to workers on large industrialized farms, but not to those on "family sized" farms.

HINES ON AFL VETERANS UNIT

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green announced the appointment of Lewis G. Hines, AFL national legislative representative, to the AFL's Veterans Committee.

Mr. Hines takes the place on the committee formerly held by the late Robert J. Watt.

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SUPPLEMENT

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WILLIAM GREEN, President   WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1947   GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

NLRB Denies Non-Filing Union Place On Ballot In Representation Election

Washington, D. C.—A union which has not filed all the data required under the Taft-Hartley law may not oppose a union in full compliance with the law in a collective bargaining election, according to a decision of the National Labor Relations Board.

The decision was the first which involved consideration of questions raised by the registration and filing sections of the new law. These require that unions, in order to utilize the services of the NLRB, must file financial and organizational statements with the Labor Department and that each officer must file with the NLRB an affidavit that he is not a Communist.

The issue arose when the AFL's Seafarers International Union petitioned for an election in a facility of the Kinsman Transit Company, operator of cargo ships on the Great Lakes. The union was in compliance with the law's filing requirements.

Later, the independent Lake Sailors' Union intervened and asked to appear also on the ballot. This organization has not complied with the filing requirements.

The five-man NLRB, by unanimous decision, directed an election to be held within 30 days, with both unions on the ballot. It added the important proviso, however, that the independent union can have its name on the ballot only if it complies with the filing requirements in the interim.

If not, the employes will be given the opportunity only to vote yes or no on whether they wish to be represented by the AFL union—in other words, a choice between the complying union or no union at all.

The case decided did not involve the situation arising when an employer, as distinct from a complying union, petitions for an election to clarify a cloudy representation question.

In such a case, if there are two unions involved, one in compliance and the other not, will the NLRB permit the latter to appear on the ballot? Or, if only one union is involved, and this union has not complied, will the NLRB grant any election at all, even if the employer requests one?

These questions have already arisen in specific cases, now going through the NLRB and due to be decided ultimately by the board.

Convention Urges Action to Bring About Work Holiday on Election Day

San Francisco.—The AFL convention at its sessions here voted unanimously to use all practical means possible to bring about the observance of election day as a legal holiday in order that all workers may have the necessary time to vote.

In place of several resolutions introduced on the subject, the delegates voted for a substitute report submitted by the Committee on Resolutions which supported the policy "of mobilizing labor's strength so that it can be made most effective on election day."

The committee report is as follows:

"In connection with election day, your committee recognizes the fact that the primaries are of equal importance to election day, for it is then that the candidates for public office are chosen. In many southern states the selection of candidates in the primaries assures their election.

"To secure legislation making either primaries, or election day, or both, legal holidays presents difficulties which may not be immediately overcome. Your committee recommends that the American Federation of Labor and state federations of labor apply all practical means possible to establish election day as a legal holiday, and in states where the primaries are the determining factor that primary day be made a legal holiday.

"In the meantime your committee suggests that as a first step it is advisable that affiliated organizations and their local unions in negotiating agreements with employers, include provisions which would assure the workers a holiday or an adequate opportunity to perform their essential obligations as citizens, and to demonstrate the effective part they can, and which they should play in the election of public officials."

Soaring Living Cost Is Major Factor In 50% Rise In Public Assistance Aid

Washington, D. C.—The soaring cost of living since V-J Day contributed greatly to an increase of over 50 percent in the number of children financially provided for under State-Federal programs for aid to dependent children, according to an announcement of the Federal Security Administration.

More than 1,000,000 children in 400,000 families received aid in August, 1947, under the various public assistance programs. Two years ago 650,000 children in more than 250,000 families were being helped.

The FSA survey of public assistance programs declared that other major factors contributing to the increased caseload are loss of employment, including lay-offs of mothers who had worked during the war, and loss of servicemen's allowances for dependents.

In many families applying for aid to dependent children in the past two years, resources fail to meet basic needs, particularly in view of the drastice rise in consumer prices. In the two years since August, 1945, the cost of food has risen nearly 40 percent in large cities.

While prices have continued to spiral, many of these families have also suffered a cut in income. Mothers and children who worked during the war have returned to kitchen or classroom.

Relatives in war jobs who contributed to family support in many instances are no longer able to carry extra responsibilities due to the pressure of rising costs. Some ex-GIs who had helped younger brothers and sisters through dependents' allowances while in service are now unable to continue this assistance.

Increases in caseloads varied widely among states during this period. In 16 states the rise in numbers of children aided was 70 percent or more. The District of Columbia, New York and Florida showed gains of over 100 percent.

The only states showing an increase of less than 30 percent in the numbers of children aided were Delaware, Illinois, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee and Vermont.

Southern Teamsters Conference Obtains Group Insurance for Locals In 12 States

Montgomery, Ala.—Members of Local 905 of the Teamsters International Union obtained group life insurance coverage under the master policy negotiated between the Southern Conference of Teamsters and the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California.

Under the terms of the policy each individual member of the union in good standing received insurance coverage in the amount of $500.

The idea of a master policy covering all teamster groups in the Southern Conference stemmed from a survey of insurance systems used by the various locals in the South. The survey showed a great need for standardization to effect financial savings while increasing the insurance coverage available for union members. A committee which conducted the survey recommended that efforts be made to achieve such standardization and undertook to discuss the matter with several of the large private insurance companies.

The uniform plan adopted is basically simple. It provides that each local union within the 12 southern states has the privilege of entering into a contract with the insurance company for whatever amount of insurance protection it desires to obtain for its members.

The master policy provides the following:

Regardless of age or physical condition, each active member of the union shall receive an individual insurance certificate.

All members of the union in good standing are immediately covered and remain covered as long as they maintain their standing.

Each member, when and if dropping out of the union, has the privilege of converting his policy to an individual policy offered by the company without the necessity of taking any medical examination.

A member becoming totally disabled before reaching the age of 60 has his insurance continued as long as he remains disabled.

DESSER GETS POST WITH ARBITRATION GROUP

New York City.—The American Arbitration Association announced the appointment of Abraham A. Desser as the new director of its Labor-Management Division.

Mr. Desser served as a former AFL organizer and was at one time with the International Ladies Garment Workers in the same capacity. Prior to his recent appointment by the American Arbitration Association, he was in charge of collective bargaining research for the National Industrial Conference Board.

Food Prices Set New Peak; Further Rise Due, Says BLS

Washington, D. C.—Retail prices of fifty foods surveyed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 56 large cities increased 1.8 percent between mid-July and mid-August, the Labor Department reported.

The reported increase established a new high for the food price index now standing at 196.5 percent of the level prevailing in the base period 1935-39. The new peak is 6 percent above the post-World War I high set in June of 1920.

That prices were going much higher was shown by a preliminary survey of retail foods from mid-August to mid-September, which indicated an additional 3 to 4 percent advance.

The mid-July to mid-August increases ranged from 0.3 percent in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to 3.7 percent in Savannah, Ga. In New York, the increase was 1.4 percent. However, Aug. 15 prices in New York were 13.6 percent over Aug. 15, 1946, and 102.8 percent over Aug. 15, 1939.

In the 56 cities, meats, poultry and fish increaserd 4 percent from July 15 to Aug. 15. Egg prices averaged 5 percent higher. Milk prices rose 2 percent.

The average price of butter, 81 cents a pound, was 15 cents below the record high of October, 1946, however. Prices of fats and oils declined by 2 percent, while fruits and vegetables were off 1 percent.

Cereal and bakery products were on the upswing, with rice up 7 percent; corn meal, 5 percent, corn flakes, 3 percent, and rolled oats, 2 percent.

Round steak averaged 83.7 cents a pound; rib roast, 66.7 cents; chuck roast, 55.8 cents; hamburger, 46.8 cents; veal cutlets, 84.5 cents; pork chops, 78.8 cents; sliced bacon, 79.4 cents; ham, 72.1 cents; leg of lamb, 66.9 cents. Fresh eggs averaged 73.3 cents a dozen.

Zander Calls for Support of Cooperatives As Disciplinary Force Upon Labor's Foes

San Francisco.—Arnold S. Zander, president of the AFL's State, County, and Municipal Employes Union, in an address to the AFL convention characterized the consumers cooperative movement as a "sleeping giant" which, if aroused, could wield a great source of power for social good.

Mr. Zander, chairman of the AFL's Committee on Consumer Cooperatives, spoke to the convention following the adoption of a declaration stating that "consumers cooperatives and credit unions will promote higher standards of living for wage earners."

Mr. Zander urged unions to give ever-increasing support to cooperatives and emphasized the importance of the cooperative movement as a disciplinary force upon industry which, if properly guided, could serve as a potent weapon against the reactionary forces that brought about passage of the Taft-Hartley law. He said:

"I want to refer to the disciplinary aspects of the consumer cooperative movement. I offered to you the fact that if we had a strong, well organized consumers cooperative movement, we could cut into the principalities of the opposition.

"Let me offer, for instance, this, that if we were distributing in this country more than one-third of the total amount of milk distributed in the country, as is the case in Great Britain, we would then not have standing against us that segment of our industrial empire fighting us and giving us Taft-Hartley laws.

"Or if we had opposition in the last Congress from the employers, from the manufacturers of boots and shoes, let me say to you that in some of the countries where cooperatives are strong, they are in position to control that industry and the people in it, so they will not take anti-social positions."

Mr. Zander told of the outstanding success achieved by consumer cooperatives in European countries, particularly Sweden and Great Britain, and asserted that there is close association between the cooperative movement and the labor movement in those countries. Of Great Britain, he declared:

"It is a requirement, a condition of employment in the consumers cooperative movement of Great Britain that every employe of that movement must be a member of his trade union. And so in case after case we have these people forming the bulwark of the membership, the spearhead of organizing drives, and a disciplinary force on the economy of the country. It is a movement there with 10,000,000 members out of a population of 48,000,000. It is rich, it is powerful.

"In one industry after another it is dominant, in one place after another it is controlling. It is able to supply every need of the households, and all the way through, in all the work it does it expresses a social point of view, it has a social conscience which is in line with ours.

"So I offer to you that if we could build this movement—and we can, the little people in our movement can build it here—we would have a new force, a new power. We would have aroused a sleeping giant and enlisted him in our cause if we would but do that job.

"I give you this brief description of power which is available to us, the power of our seven and a half million members as buyers of the goods of this country, the power which we have as purchasers and consumers. I offer you that power because of its disciplinary force, because it can help us in carving out parts of the power which has stood against us in Congress and in the state legislatures of the country.

"What we need is membership support, the purchasing-power support, the investment-of-funds support, membership-participation support. We need that kind of support in every community of the country, and then we will have put ourselves in a position to employ this force, along with our trade union power, to take action against those who have been so successful in their acts against us."

BLS Consumers' Price Index At Peak; Sets New High for Third Straight Month

Washington, D. C.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that its consumers' price index, computed as of August 15, hit a new high for the third consecutive month.

The index stood at 160.3 percent of the 1935-39 average, 11.2 percent above a year ago, 20.3 percent above June, 1946, and 62.6 percent over August, 1939, level.

(By way of explanation, the BLS consumers' price index generally measures prices paid each month by middle-income families for quantities of selected goods, rents and services which those families actually purchased in the period 1934-36. The items priced amounted to about 70 percent of the expenditures made by city families with an average income of $1,524 in the period 1934-36.)

A rise of 1.8 percent in retail prices of foods was the chief contributor to the increase in the total index. The usual seasonal increase for the period covered by the survey is about 0.3 percent. Preliminary figures for the period up to September 15 show a further actual rise of from 3 to 4 percent, as against a normal seasonal increase of 1.3 percent. Food prices now represent more than 43 percent of the total index.

Residential rents continued to rise under the modified rent controls of the Housing and Rent Act. In the 7 large cities surveyed in August, 12 percent of the tenants had their rents increased during the preceding month. On the average, rents increased by 1.1 percent between July and August. Average rent increases from early spring to August ranged from 0.4 percent in Washington, D. C., to 4.2 percent in Memphis and 5.4 percent in Birmingham.

The one bright spot in the index was the lower prices recorded for some housefurnishings including living room furniture, bedding, radios and curtains. This decline was partially offset, however, by rising prices for refrigerators, washing machines, and stoves.

N. Y. CAFETERIA EMPLOYES GIVEN 10% JUMP IN WAGES

New York City.—Joseph Fox, secretary-treasurer of Local 302 of the AFL's Cafeteria Employes Union, announced a strike of 4,500 workers here was averted through the efforts of Arthur S. Meyer, chairman of the State Board of Mediation.

An agreement was reached with the employers under which the union members receive a 10 percent general wage increase and an increase of 15 percent in minimum wage scales. New minimum scales range from $32 to $135 weekly.

The union retained the 40-hour week in the new agreement when the employes agreed to drop their demand for extension of the workweek to 45 hours.

SEPTEMBER WEEKLY PAY UP FOR FACTORY WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—A longer workweek induced by expanded seasonal operations and greater availability of materials boosted the September average weekly earnings for workers in manufacturing industries to $50.42, according to preliminary estimates prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In the durable goods field, weekly earnings rose above the wartime peak for the first time, largely because of the lengthening of the workweek by half an hour.

Average hourly earnings increased also for all factory workers due to overtime payments, the BLS report declared.

UN Group Acts On Trade Union Rights

Lake Success, N. Y.—The position taken by the American Federation of Labor was upheld by a 31-to-5 vote of the United Nations General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee approving a resolution calling for the preparation of world-wide principles on trade union rights.

The resolution, adopted over the objections of the Soviet-dominated states, endorsed the action taken by the International Labor Conference last July when it decided to prepare one or more international treaties on trade union rights and report on them to the Economic and Social Council.

The AFL strongly supported the activities of the ILO and through its representative, the late Robert J. Watt, American workers delegate to the International Labor Conference, participated in the formulation and ultimate passage by the conference of the resolutions on freedom of association.

Consideration of the matter by the ILO, acting as a specialized agency of the United Nations, came following the submission to the UN by the World Federation of Trade Unions of a request for action on trade union guaranties. The AFL countered with its own plan for trade union rights which included action by the ILO. Thus the action by the UN committee in approving the ILO's decision was a complete victory for the AFL and represented a rebuff for the WFTU which is under the domination of Soviet Russia.

Approval of the resolution, which was prepared by a 15-nation subcommittee, was given after the committee members had voted to reject a series of Yugoslav, Czechoslovak and Argentine amendments.

Supported by the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia sought to delete any endorsement or approval of the proposed ILO principls, contending, first, that not all the nations had agreed to accept these principles and, second, that the General Assembly was not being asked to adopt these principles at the present time.

Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union argued that the WFTU should be mentioned since that organization had originally asked the Economic and Social Council to take action on trade union guarantees. Referring the matter to the ILO conference, the delegates contended, had bypassed the WFTU.

Objecting to this view, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, United States delegate, held that if the WFTU were mentioned specifically, all other labor organs, such as the American Federation of Labor, also should be included. As the specialized agency of the United Nations, the ILO represents all labor groups, she added.

In opposition, Valerian A. Zorin, Soviet Union delegate, argued that the ILO principles would set forth the rights of employers and workers' groups alike. It is the labor groups, not the owners, that need a voice, he declared.

CORNELL PUBLISHES FIRST LABOR RELATIONS REVIEW

Ithaca, N. Y.—The Industrial and Labor Relations Review, published for the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University, made it its initial appearance recently.

The new quarterly is described as the first journal of its kind in the field of labor-management relations.

In a foreword, Edmund E. Day, president of Cornell, called the publication "a logical extension of the function which higher education is assuming in the area of labor-management relations."

The first issue includes a discussion of "Labor and American Foreign Policy," by David A. Morse, Undersecretary of Labor, and contributions from such others in the industrial and labor relations fields as D. C. Prince, vice president of General Motors, Charles Luckman, president of Lever Brothers, and William Gomberg, director of the management engineering department, International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, AFL.

SEPT. AUTO PRODUCTION 2D HIGHEST FOR YEAR

Detroit.—Factory sales of passenger cars in September hit a total of 307,879 units, or the second highest month in 1947, the Automobile Manufacturers Association announced.

September passenger car sales were up 18% over August, and September sales of 112,420 trucks and coaches represented a 27% rise over the previous month's total of 88,274 commercial units.

Total factory sales in the first nine months of 1947 amounted to 3,497,811 vehicles, the AMA report showed. Passenger cars accounted for 2,570,059 of the total, while truck and coach sales reached 927,752 units.

GALVIN, BAKERY WORKERS OFFICER, DIES IN CRASH

New York City.—William A. Galvin, vice-president of the AFL's Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union and president of the Biscuit and Cracker Workers Union, Local 405, was a passenger on the ill-fated United Airlines transport plane which crashed and burned near Bryce Canyon, Utah.

Mr. Galvin, 40, was en route home to Manhasset, Long Island, after attending the AFL convention held in San Francisco.

Congress Urged to Hike Minimum Wage; Broaden Act to Include More Workers

Washington, D. C.—The AFL strongly urged Congress to immediately raise the minimum wage to 75 cents an hour and to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to extend its coverage to workers now excluded by the wording of the original law.

Walter Mason, national legislative representative for the AFL, in testimony before the House Committee on Education and Labor, presented the AFL's policy on minimum wage legislation as adopted at the recent convention and attacked those who are opposed to the upward revision of the minimum wage level.

Referring to the national wage policy adopted by Congress with passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act, a policy which recognized a legal obligation to maintain the minimum standard of living necessary for the health, efficiency, and general well-being of the nation's workers, Mr. Mason declared:

"I am calling upon the members of this committee to face reality—to acknowledge that the present 40-cent-an-hour minimum rate no longer carries out our national wage policy and to take the corrective action necessary to make this policy effective. The American Federation of Labor is proposing an immediate increase in the minimum wage to 75 cents an hour. We do not feel that this proposed minimum will provide the standard of living contemplated by the original act. It is, however, what is needed immediately to correct the gross inequities which now exist."

In answer to critics who have forecast dire effects for the nation's economy if the minimum wage is increased, Mason declared that such an increase would have two beneficial results:

"First, the productivity of the individual worker who had been receiving substandard wages will increase. You may ask why this should happen. The answer is very simple. Workers receiving a substandard wage cannot be expected to contribute to their fullest extent to the welfare of the enterprise. Because of the low wages, they cannot provide themselves or their families with adequate food, housing or clothing. The individual worker in such conditions is easily fatigued, has a very low morale and because of his other worries cannot contribute the full measure of his capabilities. With a minimum wage which will provide a decent standard of living his productivity naturally rises.

"Secondly, the imposition of the minimum wage will mean greater managerial efficiency. Since in most cases, substandard wages have been a subsidy to the less efficient producers at the expense of the workers, the effect of the minimum wage will fall heaviest on those less efficient producers. It will thus force these operators to reexamine their methods of doing business so that they can maintain the same level of costs as their competitors. In other words, the minimum wage will force producers to improve the efficiency of their operations."

In addition to increasing the wage level to 75 cents an hour, Mason urged extension of the law's coverage to include seamen, employes of retail and service establishments with an annual volume of business amounting to $500,000, and employes engaged in industrialized agriculture.

Further, Mason asked Congress to broaden the language of the act to provide coverage for all employes in industries "affecting commerce." The original phrase "engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce" is far more restrictive, he said, and has deprived over a million persons of the protection afforded by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Summing up, Mr. Mason reiterated the AFL's faith in the principle of minimum wage legislation as "society's judgment of the lowest rate for which an individual should be permitted to work in our economy."

"The time is long overdue for Congress to reassert its faith in this principle by setting a minimum wage commensurate with existing economic conditions, by revising the act to provide for a more equitable enforcement, and by expanding the minimum wage principle until eventually it covers all workers to whom it can be legally applied."

Report Urges Guarding of Civil Rights; Asks Ban On All Forms of Discrimination

Washington, D. C.—President Truman's committee on civil rights called for the erasure of discrimination based upon race, color, creed and national origin and declared the need for a permanent nation-wide system of guardianship for the civil rights of American citizens.

In a 178-page report submitted to Mr. Truman, the committee said the "American ideal still awaits complete realization" and made a total of 35 recommendations for enhancing the dignity of the individual and bolstering his rights, and for sorting out the disloyal from the loyal. The report advocated the legalized exposure of Communists and "native fascists."

The American Federation of Labor, through its representative on the committee, Boris Shishkin, AFL economist, participated in the preparation of the report.

The report urged the President to create a permanent Federal commission on civil rights, and the 48 states were asked to do the same for themselves. Congress was asked to create a standing committee on civil rights and the Department of Justice was advised to reorganize and enlarge its civil rights section.

This was the basic pattern of Federal and state machinery which the committee said it felt was necessary to advance American democracy.

While focusing its attention on the bad side of the nation's record with respect to the civil rights of our citizens, the committee made special mention of the human progress made in this country.

"This necessary emphasis upon our country's failures should not be permitted to obscure the real measure of its successes. No fair-minded student of American history, or of world history, would deny to the United States a position of leadership in enlarging the range of human liberties and rights, in recognizing and stating the ideals of freedom and equality, and in steadily and loyally working to make those ideals a reality.

"Whatever our failures in practice have been or may be, there has never been a time when the American people have doubted the validity of those ideals. We still regard them as vital to our democratic system."

The 35 recommendations covered a wide range, including the following proposals:

Affirmative work by Federal, state and congressional organs to improve civil liberties.

Revisions of statutes protecting individuals against encroachment of their right sand against police brutality.

An anti-lynching act.

Prohibition of poll taxes as a voting requisite.

Abolition of white primaries.

Laws to compel Communist and other subversive groups to disclose their sponsorship, aims and finances.

Federal action to end segregation of any kind which is based on race, color, creed and nationality.

A campaign to educate the people in a continuous program to strengthen civil rights to be conducted by the proposed Federal commission.

Asserting that "the only aristocracy that is consistent with the free way of life is an aristocracy of talent and achievement," the committee briefly reviewed some affirmative factors. Among these were the facts that Negroes have been accepted in big league baseball and that high officials of the armed forces show an increasing tendency to use more Negroes and other minority groups on a basis of equality with white units.

Reviewing the right to vote, the committee said that the franchise is barred to some because of race, to others by institutions or procedures which impede free access to the polls. Others were disfranchised by electoral irregularities or corrupt practices, and the permanent residents of the District of Columbia were excluded from political representation by "outmoded national traditions."

Most serious under this heading, continued the committee, was the denial of suffrage to Negoes in most southern states, but it hailed recent "progress, limited and precarious, but nevertheless progress."

ORGANIZATIONAL UNITY CLOSER FOR TELEGRAPHERS

Los Angeles.—The Western Union Division of the AFL's Commercial Telegraphers' Union acted to bring about more direct organizational affiliation with the parent union.

At its 7th annual convention here, the Western Union Division recommended that its divisional headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., be eliminated and that every Western Union local affiliate directly with the Commercial Telegraphers' Union with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

The recommendation is subject to the approval of the convention of the international union.

In other convention actions, the Western Union delegates voted for a resolution favoring government ownership of the communications system and endorsed the continuation of the campaign against the Western Union Company's policy of "economic suicide" in closing offices and shortening business hours.

56 AFL UNIONS FILED DATA UNDER LABOR LAW

Washington, D. C.—Fifty-six international unions affiliated with the AFL and 2,034 other AFL affiliated unions were included in a list released by the Secretary of Labor of unions which have filed organizational and financial reports under the Taft-Hartley law.

The list of filings as of the close of business on October 22 covered a total of 2,995 unions.